

Michigan's AmeriCorps Week Project Descriptions

LOCATION	DATE(S)	TIME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	POINT OF CONTACT
Detroit Area (Southeast MI)	Monday, May 14 (Kickoff & Motor City Blight Busters Service Project)	11:30am-12:30pm; 1:00pm-5:00pm	The kickoff event will take place on May 14 th in downtown Detroit at Campus Martius Park. This event will include guest speakers, program displays, local media, and AmeriCorps members/alums. A service project with Motor City Blight Busters (demolishing a home or working on a community park) will take place immediately following the kickoff.	Joe Spain jspain@guidance-center.org (734) 785-7705 ext. 7209
	Friday, May 18 (The Greening of Detroit Service Project)	9:00am-3:00pm	Other service project opportunities include: -May 18 th with The Greening of Detroit (planting trees in Detroit area neighborhoods) -May 19 th with Motor City Makeover (cleaning up a Detroit area neighborhood)	
	Saturday, May 19 (Motor City Makeover Service Project)	9:00am-3:00pm	*From early April through mid-May, AmeriCorps programs will distribute Healthy Lifestyle promotional materials to various community centers, homeless shelters, and schools.	
Grand Rapids (West MI)	Tuesday-Friday, May 15-19	12:00pm on 5/15-12:00pm on 5/19	The primary focus of this project will be "The Box." The Box is an 8x8 structure with a Plexiglas wall that will be located outside a local bookseller. This box will not only house an individual reading 24 hours a day for 4 days (100 hours), but it will also act as the collection point for book donations. The books will be donated to after-school programs and local organizations that serve children and families. AmeriCorps members and community volunteers can sign up for one-hour shifts to read in The Box. There will be additional activities such as a children's story hour, visits from local celebrities, and bookshelf construction projects. Camp Fire USA has also invited AmeriCorps members and volunteers to come in and read to students in the LOOP after-school programs (which take place from 3:30 to 5:30, M-F) in the Grand Rapids Public Schools.	Sarah Barton sbarton@ggr.redcross.org
Holland	Saturday, May 19	9:00am-	Citizens of the lakeshore are privileged to have miles of beachfront and beautiful parks. In partnership with	Nick DeKoster

(West MI)		1:00pm	the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Conservationist, youth, volunteers, and AmeriCorps members will gather for a Dune Preservation Day. This service-learning project will involve environmental education, planting dune grass, beach/dune clean-up, fixing/adding fencing, and a celebration cookout to end the day.	Nicholas.dekoster@gmail.com (616) 822-6863
Muskegon (West MI)	Monday-Thursday, May 14–17	9:00am- 3:00pm	This service project will take place at Muskegon's Women and Children's Rescue Mission. Participants will help renovate a women's shelter room into a comfortable study lounge. The shelter provides more than 15,000 nights of lodging for residents annually. An open house on Thursday afternoon at 3:00pm will showcase the impact of national service members in Muskegon.	Theresa Goerbig goerbigt@mfc-health.org (231) 737-1771
Benton Harbor (Southwest MI)	Monday-Friday May 14-18	9:00am- 1:00pm	AmeriCorps members will serve as helping hands at Benton Harbor High School from May 14-16. Members will then participate in a service project in conjunction with the United Way's Day of Caring on May 17. AmeriCorps Week will also include service and outreach at Gateway Vocational and Rehabilitation Center.	Ardale Clark Leg2007@yahoo.com (269) 926-6998 Tracy Cleveland bgclubvol@parrett.net (269) 934-8536
Ionia (Central MI)	Saturday, May 19	9:00am- 5:00pm	<p>The Ionia County AmeriCorps team has adopted a theme of "AmeriCorps Joining the Community in Celebrating Everyone Who Is Involved." They will be celebrating the civic engagement of all volunteers, including national service members. National service members and alums will conduct two service projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) A free movie for families of children in a countywide reading program at the local non-profit movie theatre highlighted in Ionia's Cool City initiative 2.) A dog expo with displays, exhibitions, and activities promoting kindness for animals, including the Ionia County AmeriCorps team's therapy dog and service-learning projects developed by county students to support the county Animal Shelter <p>There are also numerous community events</p>	Katie Richlick richlick@bas-k12.org (616) 794-4958

			<p>scheduled that day: an art show, a quilt show, a book sale at the library, the March of Dimes Walk America, a display showing the local Habitat for Humanity projects, plant displays by the Ionia Garden Club, the Ionia County Historical Society Historic Homes Tour, an antique car show, and a model train display and tea room at the town museum. The Ionia County AmeriCorps team will connect all the volunteers by distributing buttons that read, "I AM INVOLVED – AmeriCorps joins the community in celebrating everyone who volunteers to make the county great." Members will also distribute a list of activities scheduled for the day, as well as a list of volunteer opportunities throughout the county. The activities and volunteer opportunities will demonstrate the "Power of Involvement."</p>	
Williamston (Central)	Saturday, April 28	9:00am-5:30pm	Habitat for Humanity will partner with the City of Williamston and the Williamston Kiwanis to assemble new playground equipment. They will also be repairing existing playground equipment.	Debi Drick ddrick@habitatmichigan.org (517) 655-1872
Charlevoix (Northern MI)	Saturday, May 12 (Rain date of Saturday, May 19)	8:00am-5:00pm	This service project will take place at the Ransom Nature Preserve. Project activities include: creating two new connector trails; clearing trees; repairing and installing fencing; planting shrubs to prevent ORV access; removing existing structures and debris; seeding and mulching; removing exotic landscape plants; and planting seedlings and saplings.	Matt Saunders matts@charemisd.org (231) 547-9947
Marquette-Alger Counties (Upper Peninsula)	Various (from May 9–19)	Various	AmeriCorps members (either individually or in small groups) will conduct disaster preparedness presentations. Most presentations will take place in public schools where members serve, as well as Learn and Serve classrooms. In addition to the presentations, there will be poster contests, student skits, and the dissemination of disaster preparedness publications and materials to student and parent groups. The goal is to reach 2500 students/parents, as well as hundreds of senior citizens with the help of Senior Corps RSVP.	Joe Zahn jzahn@maresa.k12.mi.us (906) 226-5130
Houghton, Baraga, and	Monday–Saturday, May 13–19	Ongoing	This project will consist of collecting donations from the community to send care packages to the deployed	B Neveau bsneveau@bhkfirst.org

Keweenaw Counties (Upper Peninsula)			<p>soldiers in Iraq. Collection boxes will be placed in local schools and businesses requesting the following:</p> <p>1.) Health & Hygiene Items: Sunscreen, Lip Balm, Skin Moisturizer, Deodorant, Body Wash, Hand towels/wash cloths, Combs, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Razors, Shave Gel</p> <p>2.) Correspondence Kits: Note Cards, Pens, Recordable CDs, Batteries</p> <p>3.) Food Items: Protein Bars, Beef Jerky, Comfort Foods, Dry Mix - Individual Serving Packets (i.e., kool-aid, crystal light, Gatorade)</p> <p>Youth from area schools will be asked to write letters to be included with each care package. Care packages will be assembled on Saturday, May 19.</p>	(906) 353-7160
Lansing	Tuesday-Wednesday, May 15-16	Ongoing	<p>The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) is coordinating an AmeriCorps Week onsite service project at the 2007 Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference in Lansing on May 15-16. Space will be provided in the conference exhibit hall for conference participants to help make fleece blankets. The fleece blankets will be donated to Haven House, a nonprofit organization in Lansing. Haven House provides emergency housing and support services for single-parent and two-parent families with children. All conference participants will be asked to give at least 15 minutes of service to the project. The MCSC will track service minutes with the goal being a total of 100 hours. AmeriCorps members wearing their "grays" (the standard AmeriCorps uniform) will be stationed at the project to talk to participants about AmeriCorps and national service.</p> <p>The Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference has become the major celebration for community volunteers throughout the state. This year's SuperConference theme is Surviving and Thriving Through Seasons of Change.</p>	<p>Michelle Mackie Metzmakerm1@michigan.gov (517) 241-3606</p>